

Today, Rep. Braley introduced a proposal to reduce healthcare costs and encourage fair competition. **Washington, DC** - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced today that he has joined Reps. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Peter Welch (D-VT) to introduce a bill outlining their vision for a public health insurance option to be included in the national health insurance marketplace that emerges from Congress this year.

The legislation, called the CHOICE Act, ensures that Americans have the option to choose a public health insurance plan as part of any national health insurance marketplace approved by Congress. The bill drives down health costs by encouraging more free-market competition between insurers. Furthermore, the bill protects consumer choice in health insurance by putting a public health insurance plan on a level playing field with private insurers, requiring the public plan to meet the same requirements as private insurers participating in a national insurance marketplace. The bill also requires the public plan to fund itself through plan premiums and not taxpayer dollars.

"Our healthcare system is broken and needs to be fixed," Braley said. "Any reform plan should reduce costs, preserve Americans' choice of doctors and health plans, and ensure affordable, quality coverage for all. The public health insurance option outlined by the CHOICE Act is a blueprint for an important component of healthcare reform."

Braley continued, "A public health insurance option will encourage free market competition to lower costs and provide more choices for consumers. Our plan ensures that a public health insurance option will compete with private insurers on a fair, level playing field and will require a public health insurance plan to be financially self-sufficient."